

That Which is Claimed:

1. A masked expression cassette comprising a double stranded nucleic acid molecule wherein a first strand comprises an RNA sequence which codes for a protein of interest linked downstream of a flanking sequence, and a translation initiation site operably inserted upstream of the RNA sequence; and,
 - 5 the second strand bound to the flanking sequence, wherein said second strand comprises a polynucleotide corresponding to said first strand and to a target molecule.
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2. The cassette of claim 1, wherein said cassette further comprises a 7-methyl guanine cap linked to the 5' end of the flanking sequence.
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3. The cassette of claim 2, wherein said protein of interest comprises a toxin selected from the group consisting of *Pseudomonas* exotoxin A, ribonuclease, Barnase toxin, Pertussis toxin, and cholera toxin.
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4. A masked expression cassette comprising a double stranded nucleic acid molecule comprising a first strand comprising a 5' sense sequence and a 3' sense sequence;
 - 25 said first strand further comprising an RNA sequence which codes for a protein of interest linked downstream of said 5' sense sequence, and a translation initiation site operably inserted upstream of the RNA sequence; and,
 - 30 the second strand bound to said 5' sense sequence and to said 3' sense sequence, wherein said second strand comprises a polynucleotide corresponding to said 5' sense sequence and to said 3' sense sequence and to a target molecule.
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5. The cassette of claim 4, wherein said cassette further comprises a 7-methyl guanine cap linked to the 5' end of said nucleic acid molecule.
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6. The cassette of claim 5, wherein said protein of interest comprises a toxin selected from the group consisting of *Pseudomonas* exotoxin A, ribonuclease, Barnase toxin, Pertussis toxin, and cholera toxin.

5 7. A masked expression cassette comprising a double stranded nucleic acid molecule wherein a first strand comprises an RNA sequence which codes for a protein of interest linked downstream of a plurality of sense sequences, and a translation initiation site operably inserted upstream of the RNA sequence; and,

10 a plurality of second strands, each bound to an individual sense sequence, wherein each of said second strands comprises a nucleotide sequence corresponding to one of said sense sequences and to a target molecule.

15 8. The cassette of claim 7, wherein said cassette further comprises a 7-methyl guanine cap linked to the 5' end of said nucleic acid molecule.

9. The cassette of claim 8, wherein said protein of interest comprises a toxin selected from the group consisting of *Pseudomonas* exotoxin A, ribonuclease, Barnase toxin, Pertussis toxin, and cholera toxin.

20 10. The cassette of claim 8, wherein each of said sense sequences comprises a distinct nucleotide sequence and each of said second strands comprises a nucleotide sequence corresponding to one of said distinct sense sequences and to a distinct target molecule.

25 11. The cassette of claim 8 having two sense sequences and two second strands.

12. The cassette of claim 8 having three sense sequences and three second strands.

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